GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:306
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2005
TERRORIST ATTACK ON AMARNATH PILGRIMS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the militant attacks on Amarnath Pilgrims during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the deaths and other casualties reported as a result thereof during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the compensation and other payments made to the next to the kins of the yatris who died or injured in the attacks during the above period, year-wise;

(d) the details of the compensation and other payments made to the families of those security men who were killed or injured during the above period, year-wise

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce new life insurance scheme for the Amarnath yatris;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the security arrangements for the Amarnath pilgrims?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a)to(g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.306 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 16.8.2005.

(a)to(d): There has been no terrorist attack on Amarnath pilgrims in the year 2003, 2004 and 2005 (till 11 August 2005).

However, there was one incident of terrorist attack on Amarnath pilgrims in the year 2002. Terrorist attacked pilgrims at Base camp Nunwan, Pahalgam on August 8 in which 9 persons were killed and 21 others injured. No security personnel was killed or injured in the incident.

Rs. 1 lakh was paid as ex-gratia/compensation to each of the next of kin of the deceased, while Rs. 5000 was paid to each of the injured persons. The State government has informed that the payment were made through the Chief Secretaries of the concerned states.

(e)&(f): Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) has entered into agreement with ICICI − LOMBARD GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY for covering accidental death, for a sum of Rs. 1 lakh for each yatri.

(g): The annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra involves large-scale security arrangements consisting of a three-tier security set-up which includes:

- Road Opening Parties(RoPs) along the route of pilgrims starting from Jammu to the Holy Cave via Baltal as well as Pahalgam;

- Sanitization of hilly terrain in the forests around Pahalgam-Holy Cave and Baltal-Holy Cave axis;

- Arrangements for protection around base camps at Pahalgam, Baltal and all camps en-route to the Holy Cave including access control and anti-sabotage checks; and

- In providing security arrangements, the forces involved are Army, BSF, CRPF and J&K Police from Jammu upto Holy Cave.